

Missouri Task Force on Children's Justice

Establishment and Maintenance of Task Force (Sections 107(b)(2) and 107(c)(1) of the Act

The Task Force on Children's Justice was established under the federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) in 1991. All states receiving CAPTA funding are required to maintain a state, multi-disciplinary task force on children's justice. Missouri's Task Force is comprised of 21 members representing most urban and metropolitan jurisdictions, as well as rural locations in the State, and includes law enforcement, judges and attorneys involved in both civil and criminal child abuse and neglect proceedings, child advocates, court appointed special advocates (CASA), health and mental health professionals, individuals representing child protective service agencies, individuals experienced in working with children with disabilities, representatives of parents' groups, adult former victims of child abuse and or neglect, and individuals experienced in working with homeless children and youth (as defined in section 725 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11434a).

The mission and responsibility of the Task Force is to assist the State in developing, establishing, and operating programs designed to improve child welfare; in particular, the handling of child abuse and neglect cases, the handling of child abuse related fatalities, the prosecution of child abuse cases, particularly sexual abuse, and the handling of cases involving children with disabilities or serious health related problems. The Task Force is also charged with the oversight and distribution of Children's Justice Act federal grant money and reformation of policy and state laws related to the improvement of the investigative response to child abuse and neglect and the reduction of trauma to child victims.

The Task Force meets quarterly, reviews and discusses activities to improve the investigative, administrative, and judicial handling of cases of child abuse and neglect, including child sexual abuse and exploitation; cases involving suspected child maltreatment-related fatalities; and cases involving a potential combination of jurisdictions, such as intrastate, interstate, Federal-State, and State-Tribal, in a manner which reduces additional trauma to the child victim and the victim's family and also ensures procedural fairness to the accused.

In addition to meeting quarterly, the Task Force via the use of subcommittees, held in-person meetings and conference calls, conducted case reviews, reviewed policy, tracked and evaluated proposed legislation, reviewed reports, and engaged in dynamic discussions which clearly displayed the value of having a multidisciplinary task force involved in the evaluation of the child welfare system's response to reports of child abuse and neglect.

In 2017, the Task Force maintained full membership consisting of 21 members at all times and met membership requirements as specified by CAPTA in Section 107(c)(1). Below are the names, titles, designations of disciplines, and brief descriptions of the relevant experience of each of the Task Force members. Each member serves a term of four years and may serve a consecutive three terms.

Leanne Reese (Court Appointed Special Advocate Representative)	Leanne Reese serves as the Deputy Director of Missouri's Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Association. Leanne graduated cum laude with her undergraduate degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 1992. She continued her education by earning her J.D. from the University of Pennsylvania Law School in 1997. Since graduating from law school Leanne has served as an attorney in the business department, transaction section, and litigation section for Richards, Layton, and Finger, P.A. in Wilmington, Delaware.
Kelly Schultz	Kelly Schultz is the Director of the Office of Child Advocate.

(Parent Group Representative)	Prior to being the Child Advocate for the State of Missouri, Kelly spent the previous twelve years working in the Missouri State Capitol. She worked for Minority Secretary Sara Lampe – Springfield, Minority Leader Jeff Harris – Columbia, Senator Sidney Johnson – St. Joseph, and Senator John Schneider – Florissant. In addition to her public policy experience, Kelly has served as the President of the Boone County Foster Parent Support Group; was a house parent at the Rainbow House, an emergency shelter for children; and volunteered at the Women’s Shelter. Kelly and her husband are foster/adoptive parents and have helped to raise 16 children throughout the years. Kelly Schultz received her undergrad degree in Political Science and Masters in Public Administration from the University of Missouri.
Kendra House (Health Professional)	Kendra House is a detective with the Maryland Heights Police Department. She received her Associates Degree in Nursing from Florissant Valley Community College in 1997. Ms. House’s experience includes 9 years as a registered nurse working in the Intensive/Critical Care Unit at St. Joseph’s Health Center in St. Charles, Missouri as well as the Emergency Department at the Christian Hospital Northwest, St. Louis, Missouri. Ms. House followed up her nursing education and experience by attending and graduating from the law enforcement academy and gaining employment with the Maryland Heights Police Department where she has served for the past 16 years, 10 of those years serving as a juvenile detective working primarily child sexual and physical abuse cases. Ms. House has also served as a death investigator for the St. Louis County Medical Examiner’s Office. Ms. House’s extensive professional background in nursing, juvenile detective work, general law enforcement and death investigation brings a wealth of information to the Task Force.
Danielle Corley (Child Protective Service Agency Representative)	Danielle Corley is a Field Support Manager for the Northern Region of the Children’s Division with a focus on the investigation of child abuse and neglect. Ms. Corley has a Bachelor of Arts degree from Central Methodist College, Fayette, Missouri and a Masters of Business Administration from Missouri Baptist University, St. Louis Missouri. Ms. Corley was a Circuit Manager in St. Charles County for the Children’s Division from 1997 to 2010. Ms. Corley also served as the Executive Director of the Child Advocacy Center of East Central Missouri from 2010 to 2013.
Gaylin Rich Carver (Defense Attorney)	Gaylin Rich Carver is a private practice attorney with Carver and Michael specializing in family law, juvenile law, probate, estate planning, guardianship and criminal defense. Ms. Rich Carver received her Bachelor’s degree in Anthropology from the University of Missouri, Columbia in 1992, her Master’s Degree in Education from the University of Missouri in 1993, and her Juris Doctorate (J.D.) from Saint Louis University in 2001. Ms. Rich Carver was admitted to the Missouri Bar in 2001 and previously served as Assistant Cole County

	Prosecuting Attorney.
Carolyn Green (Child Advocate)	Carolyn Green is the founding Executive Director of Child Safe of Central Missouri, Inc., a child advocacy center serving 11 Missouri counties. Ms. Green served as Child Safe's Executive Director from 2000 until her retirement in December, 2015. Prior to serving the child advocacy center, Ms. Green served 10 years with the Department of Mental Health and 20+ years with the Department of Social Services, more than half of which were county and state level supervisory or administrative positions.
Beverly Newman (Family Court Representative)	Beverly Newman is the Chief Juvenile Officer for Cass and Johnson Counties in Missouri. Ms. Newman has been employed by the 17 th Circuit Juvenile Court in a variety of positions since March 1988. Beverly earned her Bachelor of Science Degree in Sociology from the University of Central Missouri, Warrensburg, Missouri. Ms. Newman has extensive specialized training in the areas of supervision and management and has other professional affiliations including but not limited the Missouri Juvenile Justice Association Board of Directors (Current President) and the Citizens Advisory Board for the Missouri Department of Corrections. Ms. Newman holds a certification as a Juvenile Justice Subject Matter Expert with the Missouri Department of Public Safety Peace Officer Standards Training (POST).
Judge Rachel Bringer Shepherd (Criminal Judge)	Judge Rachel Bringer Shepherd is a Circuit Judge in the 10 th Judicial Circuit for the State of Missouri. Prior to becoming a judge, she represented parts of Marion and Ralls counties (District 6) in the Missouri House of Representatives. She was first elected to the House in November 2002. Judge Bringer Shepherd also served as the assistant prosecutor in Marion County from 2000-02 and was a law clerk for Judge Reinhard with the Missouri Court of Appeals, Eastern District from 1995-97. A 1989 graduate of Palmyra High School, Judge Bringer Shepherd graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor of arts with honors in English from the University of Missouri-Columbia in 1992. She received her Juris Doctorate (J.D.) from the University of Missouri-Columbia Law School in 1995, where she served as a member of the Missouri Law Review.
Greg Holtmeyer (Adult Former Victim)	Greg Holtmeyer is a third grade teacher at St. Peter Interparish School, Jefferson City, Missouri. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education from Missouri State University, Springfield, Missouri and his Master of Science degree in Elementary Education from the University of St. Mary's, Leavenworth, Kansas. Greg was the victim of child physical and sexual abuse at a very young age. Greg has responded to his victimization by speaking about it openly and providing professional presentations to organizations servicing children and families regarding the impact and trauma

	associated with child sexual abuse from a very personal perspective. Greg has shared his story through the Phoenix Project, presenting “Arise from the Ashes, Dealing with Sexual Abuse from a Different Perspective”. Greg has presented to professional groups at numerous conferences and trainings throughout the state.
Marjorie K. Carter (Family Attorney)	Marjorie Carter is an attorney who focuses her law practice at Carter Family Law Group, LLC in St. Louis in the areas of family law and mediation. She attended St. Louis University School of Law and received her J.D. in 1991. Marjorie served for many years as chairperson of the Missouri Child Abuse and Neglect Review Board. She also has significant experience in acting as Guardian ad Litem in juvenile court and in dissolution cases. Marjorie is a current board member for M.A.R.C.H. Mediation and the Association of Missouri Mediators (AMM). She has also served on the board of Citizens for Missouri’s Children, and is a past-president of the Women Lawyers’ Association of Greater St. Louis.
Maryann Williamson (Child Advocate)	Maryann Williamson is currently in her 26th year of employment with the University of Missouri, serving the last six years as Executive Staff Assistant to the Executive Director and Director of Academic Programs at the Thompson Center for Autism and Neurodevelopment Disorders in Columbia, Missouri. Maryann has a Bachelor’s degree in Business Administration. Ms. Williamson has been raising her two granddaughters for the past 15 years. Her middle granddaughter, Karra, was eleven months old in 1999 when she was shaken and killed by a man who was babysitting her. The man received a seven year sentence and only served four years. Ms. Williamson worked diligently for several years to pass legislation which would increase the penalty when shaking is a cause of injury or death. Representative Jeanie Riddle filed HB1317 in January 2012. The bill’s provisions were ultimately enacted in SB 628, which became Missouri law on August 28, 2012.
Rene Howitt (Child Advocate)	Rene Howitt is the founder of an advocacy organization, C.O.P.E. (Changing Our Parenting Experience). Rene has been involved in child advocacy since 2007 and in 2009, founded the C.O.P.E. organization. The COPE24 organization released the COPE24 Parenting Skill Program in March of 2011. The program is currently being distributed to schools throughout the US. COPE24 has also created a video production focusing on families living with children who have survived severe head trauma or SBS. Rene, through COPE24, continues to work and produces various educational materials designed to educate young persons about the realities of parenting. Rene is a former relative foster care provider. Based on her experience with the system, Rene authored a book called “Whose Best Interest” that was released in 2007.
Dan Patterson	Dan Patterson is the Greene County Prosecuting Attorney, in

(Prosecuting Attorney)	Springfield, Missouri. Dan received his Juris Doctorate from the University of Missouri Columbia School of Law, May 15, 1993. He has achieved many honors, including, but not limited to graduating Cum Laude from the University of Missouri; Layout & Design Editor for the Missouri Law Review in 1992 and 1993; recipient of the West Publishing Award for Best Work in Legal Research & Writing, 1990; and an extensive honorable military service record including his current position as Lieutenant Colonel, Deputy Staff Judge Advocate, 35 th Infantry Division of the Missouri National Guard. Dan has 17 years of experience prosecuting child abuse neglect cases, is a POST Certified Instructor with the Springfield Police Academy and is the current Chairman of the Stake Holder Committee and Board Member of the Child Advocacy Center.
Sheriff Clay Chism (Law Enforcement Community)	Clay Chism is the Callaway County Sheriff. Clay has more than 17 years of experience in investigations and has been directly involved and supervised the investigation of numerous child abuse and neglect cases. Clay Chism received his Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Central Missouri, Warrensburg, Missouri and his Master of Science in Criminal Justice from Columbia College, Columbia, Missouri. Clay is an active member of the Callaway County Child Fatality Review Panel.
Chief Bill Carson (Law Enforcement Community)	Chief Bill Carson is a commander with the Maryland Heights (MO) Police Department, serves as a Deputy Commander with the Major Case Squad of Greater St. Louis, and is a member of the Missouri State Child Fatality Review Panel. Chief Bill Carson has thirty-three years of experience as a police officer in the St. Louis metropolitan area, and has served sixteen years in criminal investigation units as a detective, a supervisor and eventually a commander. He holds a Master's Degree in Criminology & Criminal Justice from the University of Missouri – St. Louis. Chief Carson has written several articles and taught police officers, prosecutors and social service workers on topics related to understanding and interviewing sex offenders. In 2011, Chief Carson was appointed by Missouri Governor Jay Nixon to serve as a member of the Task Force on the Prevention of Sexual Abuse of Children.
Donna Cash (Experienced in working with homeless children and youth-as defined in section 725 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11434a))	Donna Cash is the Coordinator for the McKinney-Vento Homeless Grant program at the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. In addition, she supervises Title I programs for Missouri's Charter Schools. She has been with the Department for over fifteen years and before beginning her tenure with the Discretionary Grants Section, she worked in both Federal Grants Management Section and the Curriculum and Assessment Section of DESE. Donna received her Bachelor of Science degree from Columbia College majoring in History with minors in Sociology and Psychology. She is an active member of the National Association for the

	Education of Homeless Children and Youth as well as Empower Missouri. She also serves on the Special Education Advisory Panel and the State Interagency Coordinating Council.
Melissa Smyser (Mental Health Professional)	Melissa Smyser is employed as the Chief of Children's Community Operations for the Department of Mental Health, Division of Behavioral Health. Ms. Smyser provides consultation, technical assistance and training to the Community Mental Health Centers in the Central Region. Melissa Smyser has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice and Sociology from Central Missouri State University and received her Masters of Social Work from the University of Missouri. Ms. Smyser is a Licensed Master of Social Work.
Dr. Jim Anderst (Health Professional)	Dr. James Anderst is a board certified Child Abuse Pediatrician and Chief of the Section on Child Abuse and Neglect at Children's Mercy Hospital. He is also an Associate Professor at the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Medicine in Kansas City, Missouri. Dr. Anderst completed medical school at the Medical College of Wisconsin, residency at Cincinnati Children's Hospital, and fellowship and Master's Degree at the University of Texas Health Science Center. Dr. Anderst has created educational tools for medical providers and legal investigators that are in use nationally and internationally. Dr. Anderst has published numerous peer-reviewed studies and book chapters regarding child maltreatment, and provides educational and research lectures nationally.
Jessi Musick (Parent/Child Attorney)	Jessi Musick is a family law attorney with a private practice who often serves as guardian ad litem in domestic and juvenile cases in Cole County, Missouri. She graduated from Missouri State University with a Bachelor of Social Work in 2007 and received her Juris Doctorate from the University of Missouri-Columbia School of Law in 2010. In 2007, Jessi partnered with Relief International and the U.S. State Department to create an educational program for Iraqi refugee children living in Jordan. She also worked for the Mayors Commission on Human Rights in Springfield, Missouri from 2006 to 2007.
Judge Robert Liston (Civil Judge)	Judge Robert Liston has been the 18 th Judicial Associate Circuit Judge for the past 11 years. He earned his Juris Doctorate from the Missouri School of Law in 1970. He has been a practicing lawyer for 31 years and has experience as the Attorney for the City of Sedalia, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney and as a Guardian ad litem. In addition, to hearing criminal cases, Judge Liston has served as the Juvenile Judge for the past 11 years.
Linda Miller (Persons Working with Children With Disabilities)	Linda Miller is currently the Coordinator for the Office of Autism Services with the Department of Mental Health, Division of Developmental Disabilities. Linda has a Bachelor of Science in Education from Ohio University and was

	employed by the Department of Social Services, in various capacities from 1992 to 2012.
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Program Performance Annual Report

Statement of Needs

The Task Force on Children's Justice requires stable, flexible, and ongoing funding to support efforts to improve the investigation and prosecution of child abuse and neglect and reduce trauma to child victims. This will assist the State in its efforts to expand training, expand services; provide better staff development opportunities and positive work environments; promote a positive image; and gain public support. The end goal is an improved ability to recruit, train, and retain staff, ultimately, it will enhance the State's ability to respond to child abuse and neglect in the most timely and effective manner. The Task Force requires assistance and support from many state and local partners to succeed in these efforts.

The term investigator will be used several times throughout this report. In Missouri, this term refers to the Children's Division workers who are conducting child abuse and neglect investigations and assessments.

Task Force Activities, Outputs, and Outcomes

The following are the activities completed/in progress and recommendations of the Task Force and its subcommittees for the 12-month period preceding the date of submission:

(A) Activities to Improve the Investigative, Administrative, Judicial Handling of Cases

- (1) The Task Force has and will continue to assist the Children's Division and multi-disciplinary team members involved in the investigation and prosecution of child abuse and neglect by focusing efforts on developing, supporting and funding more comprehensive training, including but not limited to: trauma informed training for Children's Division investigators; multi-disciplinary team training; forensic interview training; child fatality investigative training; identification of child abuse and neglect; mechanisms of injury; identification of appropriate collateral contacts and witnesses; and proper use of safety and risk assessment tools in the investigative process. The Task Force and Children's Division has made great strides to address identified areas of need and begun to implement training (as described throughout this report) to improve the Children's Division and the multi-disciplinary team's ability to respond to reports of child abuse and neglect. The Task Force will continue to support the Children's Division in these efforts.
- (2) The Children's Division, with the support of the Task Force, continues to work with members of all disciplines to improve communications in the multi-disciplinary team response to child abuse and neglect allegations. The Children's Division works on this not only in the normal course of business through the investigative process, case reviews, development of multi-disciplinary team protocols, and multi-disciplinary team meetings, but also through multi-disciplinary team trainings funded by the Task Force. One of the objectives in the CFSP 2015-2019 is to strengthen Child Advocacy Centers and multi-disciplinary team partnerships through training. The Task Force will continue to support and consider CJA grant applications submitted for the purposes of addressing training needs of Children's Division staff, Child Advocacy Centers, and multi-disciplinary team members to improve the investigation and prosecution of child abuse and neglect and strengthen partnerships amongst team members.

- (3) The Task Force, specifically the Critical Event Review Committee, continued to see in its reviews that Children's Division investigators experienced challenges in diagnosing children who have been victims of abuse and neglect. It was noted during a review that community agencies, including health professionals, need to be made more aware of Missouri's Safe Care providers, which specialize in identifying abuse and neglect. It was noted that further training needed to be provided to all health professionals on identifying abuse and neglect and also knowing their own establishment protocols when abuse and neglect has been identified. The Critical Events Review Committee recommended that local multi-disciplinary teams reach out to hospitals to assure they have contact information of Safe Care physicians in their area.
- (4) Missouri's state level Child Fatality Review Panel began a case review process of fatalities which occurred as a result of child abuse or neglect beginning with CY2014 in response to the Commission to Eliminate Child Abuse and Neglect Fatalities' recommendation for states to conduct a five-year retrospective review of child fatalities. The sub-committee met at least monthly in 2017 to begin developing a case review. A rubric for review was agreed upon by the subcommittee. The case review team consists of a wide representation of professions, including child welfare, prosecutors, child advocates, medical, law enforcement, child abuse and neglect prevention, and public health. The case review team is focusing on identifying areas in which various systems could have intervened to prevent the fatality in an effort to make recommendations for policy and legislative change in child welfare. Subsequent meetings have occurred throughout 2017 and 2018 and will continue until completion.

Information from the subcommittee is brought to the CJA Task Force to ensure collaboration between the two groups. In November 2017, Task Force Member Kelly Schultz presented to the Task Force that a subcommittee had been formed within the State Child Fatality Review Panel to review CAN fatality reviews. It was noted that local fatality review panel's conclusions of abuse and neglect may differ from the findings of law enforcement and/or Children's Division. The subcommittee is approximately halfway through fatalities from 2014 thus far. They are hoping to have a report with recommendations to the Citizen's Review Panel by the end of 2018. Children's Mercy Hospital will be assisting at compiling data and putting the recommendations in a formal report.

(B) Steps to Establish Experimental, Model, or Demonstration Programs

- (1) The Task Force began the planning a Children's Justice Act sponsored conference in November 2017. CJA Task Force Member, Greg Holtmeyer, proposed that the Task Force sponsor a comprehensive workshop for multi-disciplinary team members to focus on sex trafficking, prostitution and male sexual abuse. The target audiences include counselors, therapists, law enforcement, Children's Division, schools, etc. The Task Force was in favor of such a conference and a subcommittee was formed. Finalization of the conference schedule was completed in March 2018. The Conference will be called "Show Me a Helping Hand" and will be held at Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Missouri, on June 21 and 22, 2018. The conference is free to all attendees. The schedule includes two nationally renowned speakers on the topic of male sexual abuse have been secured. The Task Force hopes that they can continue to sponsor our own conferences in the future.
- (2) The Department of Mental Health developed training and trained 40 first responders from two regions across the state to become trainers of the curriculum Surviving Secondary Trauma for First Responders. The purpose of this project was to expand availability of training for first responders on how to manage and address the impact of secondary trauma

they may experience from their professional responsibilities. The Task Force has also noted that the mental health of first responders and others within the discipline of abuse and neglect of children as a concern through the review of critical events. They supported this endeavor by the Department of Mental Health and approved a grant that provided this training.

(C) Activities to Reform State Laws, Ordinances, Regulations, Procedures or Protocols

The Task Force will continue to review Children's Division policy and law related to the investigation of child abuse and neglect.

- 1) In 2017 and 2018, the Task Force closely monitored the legislative session as it related to the investigation of child abuse and neglect. The Task Force followed and supported several bills designed to improve the investigative process. The Task Force also reviews Children's Division policy related to the investigation and prosecution of child abuse and neglect. Bills of particular interest to the Task Force introduced or reintroduced in 2017 and 2018 are as follows:

Senate Bill 160 signed into law June 22, 2017

Senate Bill 160 provides the Children's Division statutory authority to retain investigation reports and all identifying information when the child is known to have been abused or neglected, but the identity of the perpetrator cannot be identified. These reports will be retained forever, in the same manner as a family assessment. An unknown perpetrator cannot be placed on the central registry. Due to this, a new investigative conclusion option of '*Child Abuse/Neglect Present, Perpetrator Unidentified*' is being developed. Staff will still be required to meet the elements of abuse/neglect by a preponderance of the evidence (POE) and should continue to use the POE conclusion templates in their conclusion summary. Staff should summarize in the care, custody, and control element of the conclusion template all efforts made to ascertain the identity of the perpetrator and why the perpetrator could not be determined. No investigation may be concluded with this finding without authorization from a Regional Director or their designee.

Senate Bill 160 eliminated many of the restrictions that previous legislation placed on the Children's Division's ability to re-open an investigation. The language under Section 210.152(3), RSMo., now states, "the Children's Division may re-open a case for review if new, specific, and credible evidence is obtained." This will allow parties other than the alleged perpetrator, the alleged victim, or the office of the child advocate, to request a report be re-opened, including but not limited to, Children's Division staff and law enforcement. The previous timeframe for re-opening a report has also been removed.

Senate Bill 160 revised the definition of care, custody, and control.

Those responsible for the care, custody, and control of the child includes, but is not limited to:

- The parents or legal guardians of the child;
- Other members of the child's household;
- Those exercising supervision over a child for any part of a twenty-four hour day;
- Any person who has access to the child based on relationship to the parents of the child or members of the child's household or the family; or
- Any person who takes control of the child by deception, force, or coercion.

The Task Force is also closely watching the following 2018 bills that have been introduced by members of the legislature:

House Bill 1610

This bill changes how reports of abuse or neglect are retained by the Children's Division within the Department of Social Services. The bill allows the Children's Division to retain all information in several types of investigative reports, not just identifying information. The bill also extends the time period that the information will be retained for several types of reports. Most notably, for the reports that were made by a mandated reporter and the Children's Division have made a preponderance of evidence finding. The retention of such records shall go from five-years to ten-years. For those reports made by a permissive reporter, retention of the same such records shall go from two years to five years.

House Bill 1862

This bill provides that the Children's Division, within the Department of Social Services, may accept a report for investigation or assessment if either the child or alleged perpetrator resides or may be found in Missouri or if the incident occurred in Missouri or if the child recently resided in Missouri but the incident occurred outside of Missouri. The Division must immediately communicate reports that merit investigation to the appropriate agencies in the state where the child is believed to be located. This bill shall not prohibit the Division from co-investigating a report of child abuse or neglect or sharing records and information with another state, territory, or nation if the Division determines it is appropriate to do so. The Division may share records with child welfare agencies and law enforcement agencies outside of Missouri when the Division believes that such information is needed to protect a child. Unsubstantiated reports may only be shared if the Division reasonably believes the receiving entity will prevent unauthorized dissemination (Chapter 210, RSMo).

House Bill 1976

This bill adds to the list of people responsible for the care, custody, and control of a child for purposes of child abuse: School personnel, contractors, or volunteers if the person has established a relationship with the child through the school or school-related activities, even if the alleged abuse or neglect by the school personnel, contractor, or volunteer occurred outside of school hours, off school grounds, or outside the scope of school functions.

House Bill 2040

This bill states that the Children's Division, juvenile officer, or prosecuting attorney may petition the court for an order directing a parent, guardian, or other person with care, custody, and control of a child who is the subject of an investigation of child abuse or neglect to present the child to a Children's Division worker for an assessment of the child's health, safety, and well-being. The court will enter the order if there is reasonable suspicion to suspect the child has been abused or neglected and the assessment is necessary to complete the investigation and doing so is in the best interest of the child. The petition and order may be made on an ex parte basis if it is reasonable to believe that providing notice may place the child at risk for further abuse or neglect, or that the child may be removed from the state, or that the evidence will be unavailable. Any person served with a subpoena, petition, or order specified in this bill is not required to file an answer, but may file a motion for a protective order. The court shall expedite a hearing on the motion and issue a decision no later than one business day after the motion is filed. Any information that may reveal the identity of a hotline reporter must not be disclosed.

House Bill 2164

Currently, a health care provider may refer a family to the Department of Health and Senior Services when a child may have been exposed to a controlled substance and the Department is required to offer service coordination services, upon referral, to the family. This bill changes the Department to the Children's Division within the Department of Social Services and removes the requirement that the Department offer coordination services to the family.

House Bill 2175

This bill states that if a health care provider reports a mother or child, within eight hours of birth, testing positive for alcohol, controlled substances, or other drugs, as specified in the bill, to the Children's Division, then the Children's Division must submit a referral to the Juvenile Office as soon as reasonably possible.

- 2) Strengthening overall investigation and assessment of families is on-going. One identified intervention to accomplish this objective was to provide comprehensive investigative training. In CY2015, the Children's Division contracted with Missouri KidsFirst to provide the Gunderson National Child Protection and Training Center ChildFirst curriculum to all investigation and supervisory staff. While this contract was not extended beyond CY2015, Missouri KidsFirst continues to invite Children's Division staff, along with other multi-disciplinary team members, when they offer ChildFirst training for new forensic interviewers. ChildFirst training was held April 2017 in Springfield with five (5) staff in attendance and October 2017 in St. Louis with twenty-eight (28) staff in attendance.
- 3) In September 2016, the Children's Division convened an internal workgroup to revise screening protocols at the Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline Unit (CANHU). The workgroup was convened to improve the Children's Division's response to allegations of child abuse and neglect to ensure the agency is intervening with families when it is appropriate and necessary to do so. This workgroup met monthly and was comprised of Central Office staff, CANHU staff, field staff, supervisors, and managers. The group revised the definitions of the conditions needed to take a report of abuse/neglect, along with the criteria for assigning response priorities to abuse/neglect reports. Recommendations were made to add several criteria for taking referrals when the concerns do not rise to the level of a child abuse and neglect report, but do warrant intervention to provide services and education to families. Implementation of this workgroup's recommendations continues to occur.
- 4) The Task Force will continue to research statutes related to child abuse and neglect in other States throughout the country to determine consistency of the laws and whether or not current Missouri laws adequately protect children.

Critical Event Review Committee

The Critical Event Review Committee began meeting quarterly in the fall of 2013 to review child abuse and neglect cases, including fatalities, near-fatalities, and serious physical injuries. The committee has continued to meet quarterly throughout this reporting period and has found reviewing a variety of cases from various regions of the state essential to comprehensively assessing the child welfare system's response to reports of child abuse and neglect. Reviews afforded committee members the opportunity to review reports and the investigative responses of each of the individual disciplines involved in the investigative process. The committee continues to make case specific recommendations with the intent of evaluating them individually and collectively from a more systemic perspective along with other evaluative activities of the Task Force. Some of the recommendations gleaned from this process were

included in the three-year assessment portion of the 2016 report and will likely be included in the next three-year assessment due in 2019.

Some of the recommendations from the critical event reviews included CJA should support any training specific to gathering information and investigation by the first responders that specifically targeting police and EMS. Investigation and prosecution would be improved if responders could interview the adults involved at the earliest possible time after the incident occurred or was reported. The review stressed the importance of getting collateral contact information during an investigation and how it can be critical to seeing the whole picture of a family and or situation.

Other recommendations included concerns over the opioid crisis. The committee has reviewed several cases where the mother is addicted to a substance and services after giving birth do not appear adequate. The committee noted that the mother is not held accountable for her participation in case activities or cases of this nature “fall through the cracks”. The Task Force felt that identified infants and mothers needed a better support system and safety network of family and service providers. Also, looking at the mother to be held accountable and/or a consequence is considered if the mother is not willing to participate in services that have been identified by the Children’s Division or multi-disciplinary team. Discussion is on-going about what would be most appropriate for the safety and well-being of the child and the mother. The rising number of opioid and other drug addicted infants is staggering. The Task Force has discussed the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act and Plans of Safe Care that are now required if an infant or family has been identified as needing further services due to infant exposure to a substance. The Task Force agrees that any support for trainings to assist in this crisis is crucial.

Recruitment Committee

The Recruitment committee is responsible for monitoring CJA’s membership, to ensure it consists of a minimum of 21 members and represents the required disciplines as specified in Section 107(c)(1) of the Act. While the Task Force presently enjoys full membership, the recruitment committee will continue to be active in seeking interested and qualified individuals to fill future vacancies. Applications for membership will continue to be accepted and reviewed on an ongoing basis. Those interested may attend all open meetings in advance of selection to the Task Force. The membership application is posted on the Task Force’s state website.

Project Impacts and/or Progress

In 2017, the Task Force continued to make significant progress in its efforts. The Task Force examined its work from previous years and re-evaluated its recommendations, including those identified in the three year assessment submitted in 2016, for improvement of the child welfare system’s investigative and prosecutorial response to determine whether or not those recommendations continued to be priorities. Members maintained a high level of commitment to the work and were very active, engaged, and motivated to find ways to improve the investigation and prosecution of child abuse and neglect. The Task Force increased its efforts to link the work of the Task Force to the Child and Family Services Five Year Plan (CFSP), Annual Progress and Services Report (APSR), the Child and Family Services Review (CFSR), and the Court Improvement Program (CIP).

The Task Force continued to keep the improvement of the investigation and prosecution of child abuse and neglect and reducing trauma to children as its primary target for its work moving forward while continuing to make efforts to connect its work to other child welfare program areas and objectives.

At the August 2017 meeting of the Task Force, special guest, Maddie McMillian from the Governor’s Office, gave an update of the First Family’s top priorities, which include improving the child welfare system. Ms. McMillian spoke of the administration’s first dinner at the Governor’s Mansion, hosted by the Governor and First Lady for foster children and families; she stated it was a huge success. First Lady

Greitens had previously identified an issue at our Child Abuse and Neglect hotline (CANHU) as not taking out of state calls and this was rectified and the hotline 800# is now available for use for out of state callers. The Foster Care Bill of Rights was signed by Governor Greitens. Also noted was the reversal on the restrictions on foster care. First Lady Greitens traveled the State speaking to stakeholders on how we can all partner with others to fix issues in our system. The floor was opened up for discussion to the Task Force. Many members of the Task Force have had the pleasure of having the First Lady come to their establishments and see firsthand the work being done. The group discussed lack of counseling and treatment resources for our families, specifically sexual abuse victims and residential care for foster children.

During the November 2017 Task Force meeting, special guest Charisse Thibaut formerly of Missouri KidsFirst, who chaired the Taskforce on Prevention of Sexual Abuse of Children Mandated Reporter Training, spoke on how they developed their mandated reporter training protocol. The workgroup consisted of 16 people who worked on development in a subcommittee. They first sent out a survey to multidisciplinary contacts asking what they would like to see in the mandated reporter training. The workgroup came together to develop the content for training. Development took about one year and was very in-depth. They first worked with the University of Missouri on development, but that was hard to understand and maneuver. They then worked with a private company to develop the training. The cost was around \$15,000, which included two updates that year. It was noted the monitoring was time consuming. The private company is involved in the upkeep, so there is monetary commitment. Ms. Thibaut stated that messaging and language needed to be simple, concise, and understandable to a broad audience. The community that uses it has had a good response.

Linkage to CFSR

Missouri had a Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) in the summer of 2017. The CFSR Advisory Committee's centralized focus is to build an advisory resource infrastructure to result in positive outcomes for children, youth and families. A broader collaboration of this kind will benefit families in improved access and service availability, and a reduction of services and funding fragmentation. The purpose of this collaborative advisory committee is twofold: first, to serve as a vehicle for cross system collaboration to promote the achievement of better outcomes for the children, youth and families; and second, to fulfill an Administration for Children and Families (ACF) requirement for a collaborative process.

Two of the areas that Missouri is working to improve are quality of risk and safety assessments of children. Two of the members of the CJA Task Force sit on the CFSR Committee and attended a multidisciplinary meeting to discuss areas of improvement needed on the CFSR in January 2018. They also provided ideas for strategies for Missouri's Program Improvement Plan. Those members are able to share information from the CFSR Committee to the rest of the Task Force. The Task Force discusses any needs identified and make recommendations as necessary. Those recommendations are then taken back to the CFSR Advisory Committee.

As reported in our previous annual report, the Task Force collaborated on the development of Missouri's Child and Family Services Plan. Heightening the awareness of the Task Force to the work outlined in the APSR/CFSP 2015-2019 enhanced their ability to assess Missouri's overall response to allegations of child abuse and neglect and to make more informed recommendations for systems improvement moving forward.

Linkage to the Court Improvement Program

In order to ensure compliance with the CJA program instructions 107 (e) (1) (A) and (B) and to further improve the collaboration efforts of the Task Force with other groups and committees developed to improve the investigation and prosecution of child abuse and neglect and improve court programs, the Task Force utilized its current Task Force member and Family Court Programs Coordinator, Kim Abbott, to keep the Task Force informed of the progress of efforts, initiatives and programs being developed and implemented by the Court Improvement Program (CIP). Ms. Abbott is Missouri's contact for the CIP and she provided the Task Force with updates on the progress of the CIP at the quarterly Task Force meetings. The Task Force utilized this collaboration to help align the work of the Task Force with the CIP when applicable. In 2018, the Task Force intends to continue to stay connected to the CIP and its efforts and continue to take advantage of opportunities to align the work of the programs.

Linkage to Anti-Trafficking Efforts

In 2015, the General Assembly created a task force on human trafficking. The purpose of the task force was to raise awareness of the human trafficking problem in Missouri and provide organizations and agencies that enforce human trafficking laws and assist victims with a central place to share information. The Commission is currently working on finalizing recommendations to the Supreme Court to improve the judicial response to these issues.

In 2016, HB 1562 was signed into law on June 22, 2016. The bill expanded the crime of sexual trafficking of a child to include advertising a child to participate in a commercial sexual act. It also protected records from exams conducted as a result of child abuse investigations.

In 2018, HB 1246 was signed in law on March 1, 2018. The bill mandates the creation of a poster related to the National Human Trafficking Hotline and requirements for its publication and display.

To comply with the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act, the Children's Division has contracted with Cornerstones of Care to provide introductory training on Human Trafficking to staff. The objectives of this training include being able to define and recognize the scope of human trafficking, being able to identify indicators and people at high risk, identifying resources for potential victims, and learning preventative strategies. Frontline staff and Older Youth Chafee providers received this training in CY2015 and CY2016. Cornerstones of Care continues to provide this training on an as needed basis for new staff and any employee that has not yet received training on human trafficking. The Children's Division is currently exploring the development of advanced training curriculum to provide more skills on the identification and assessment of child trafficking victims.

The activities and recommendations included in this report provide further evidence of the Task Force's awareness of these plans and programs and attempt to consider these efforts when discussing and brainstorming ideas for potential projects for improvements in the investigation and prosecution of child abuse and neglect moving forward.

CJA Funds Allocated/Finance Committee

In 2017, the finance committee met quarterly via conference call to review grant applications and to actively monitor the expenditure of funds. The committee was able to thoroughly review grant applications and discuss all aspects of the applications prior to the quarterly meeting of the entire Task Force. This process proved to be very beneficial to the Task Force in its charge of ensuring the appropriate use of CJA funds. The finance committee provided recommendations to the Task Force on grant applications reviewed and other funding requests, with the Task Force having the final vote.

The finance committee recommended and the Task Force voted to fund the following projects which were successfully completed in 2017 or early 2018:

MO KidsFirst – MDT Facilitator Training (April 18-20, 2017)

Missouri KidsFirst submitted a grant request for funding to provide three-day training to individuals participating as members of multidisciplinary teams (MDT) investigating child abuse and neglect. The specific target audience for the project was individuals involved in investigations responsible for leading, facilitating and coordinating multidisciplinary team meetings and case reviews. The training was held in Jefferson City, Missouri April 18-20, 2017. CJA funding supported the conference and specifically funded 15 full scholarships for individuals from various disciplines to attend the training. Participants learned how their learning style impacts their ability to facilitate the MDT, understand and manage conflict, and giving and receiving feedback. These concepts were modeled and practiced by participants as they worked through the processes of MDT meetings and case review hearings. Each training participant completed daily training evaluations and an overall training assessment and results from participants were favorable in nature. One of the recommendations of the Task Force is continued training and work around MDT teams, and this training supported that recommendation.

Total: \$15,055

Missouri KidsFirst – ChildFirst Training (April 24-28, 2017)

Missouri KidsFirst submitted a grant request for funding of one training session of the ChildFirst Curriculum. This training included a three-day and a five-day training choice. Children's Division (CD) field staff and investigators attended the three-day session designed to teach CD investigators how to conduct initial interviews of children prior to referring them for a forensic interview. Lessons in child development and court preparation were also included. The five-day session, the three day session with two additional days added on, was designed for child protection professionals intending to conduct forensic interviews of children. This course offered the opportunity to conduct mock interviews with actors and receive feedback on actual interview technique. Investigators from various disciplines and workers who attended and completed this training left better equipped to successfully investigate child abuse and neglect, with expectations for more successful dispositions and prosecutions of cases. Disciplines represented included child advocacy center staff, law enforcement officials, Children's Division staff, juvenile court employees, and prosecutors. At the end of the training a course evaluation is distributed. Results are given to the Children's Division. Results have shown great satisfaction with the training. This is supported by recommendation C2 on page 11.

Total: \$31,417

The Missouri Juvenile Justice Association (MJJA) Spring Educational Conference (May 24-26, 2017)

In late 2016, the Missouri Juvenile Justice Association submitted a grant request for CJA funding to support training for multi-disciplinary team members to attend the spring educational conference. The Task Force voted to approve funding for scholarships for 20 individuals from varying professional disciplines involved in the investigation of child abuse and neglect and juvenile justice. Scholarship recipients were required to attend workshops related to child abuse and neglect. The goal of the conference as it relates to CJA was to provide professionals who work in the field of juvenile justice and child abuse/neglect investigation with increased knowledge to achieve more thorough and successful investigations. The conference was also designed to bring multi-disciplinary team members together to strengthen and foster better multi-disciplinary relations and create the opportunity to improve the coordinated effort to investigate and prosecute child abuse and neglect. The conference was a great success with a total of 240 multi-disciplinary professionals attending. The 20 CJA scholarship recipients attended the following sessions:

- Sex Trafficking and Prosecution
- Domestic Violence a New Look
- Accident or Inflicted: Investigator you decide???
- Roles and Responsibilities of a Public Defender

This is supported by recommendation A1 on page 7.

Total: \$10,087

Metropolitan Organization to Counter Sexual Assault (MOCSA)

Improving the Investigation and Response to Youth With Sexually Abusive Behaviors – (4 Trainings between January and December 2017) MOCSA submitted a grant request for funding to support four (4) six-hour training sessions designed to improve the investigation response and promote best practice when handling reports of youth with sexually abusive behaviors. The training will be held regionally to maximize efforts to reach multidisciplinary professionals statewide. MOCSA trained 227 multidisciplinary professionals charged with investigating, responding, and providing services to youth with sexually abusive behaviors across northern and southeastern Missouri. This is supported by recommendation A1 on page 7.

Total: \$13,369

Department of Mental Health

The Department of Mental Health submitted a grant request for a project that would train 40 first responders from two regions across the state to become trainers of the curriculum, “Surviving Secondary Trauma for First Responders.” The purpose of this project, “Train the Trainer: Surviving Secondary Trauma for First Responders”, was to expand availability of training for first responders on how to manage and address the impact of secondary trauma they may experience from their professional responsibilities. The Task Force chose to fund a partial amount to begin the project. After the first two sessions, the Task Force plans to review the results and determine whether the project should be expanded and further grant funding approved as requested by the Department of Mental Health. This is supported by recommendation B3.

Total: \$8,710

Child Care Incorporated (CCI) Grant

CCI submitted a grant request for funding to support a two-day Midwest Justice Conference that was held September 13-15, 2017, in St. Charles, Missouri. The conference goals included improving the investigative response, expertise, and understanding of domestic violence, child abuse and neglect, child sexual abuse, and child sexual exploitation for multidisciplinary team members and various professionals working with these targeted victim populations. Conference attendees participated in three keynote speaker plenary sessions and were offered breakout sessions with topics geared toward members of the multi-disciplinary team, which included medical and mental health professionals, members of law enforcement, attorneys, child and family advocates, forensic interviewers, child protection workers, school counselors and others in the field of education and welfare. This conference occurs each year and participants always report satisfaction with the sessions and topics offered. This is supported by recommendation A1 on page 7.

Total: \$16,000

Missouri Office of Prosecution Services - Child Abuse Prosecutor Fellowship

The Missouri Office of Prosecution Services (MOPS) submitted a grant request for funding to support the piloting of a child abuse prosecutor fellowship program. The fellow selected for this position would be responsible for assisting prosecutors with improving the functioning of multi-disciplinary teams by attending and coordinating multi-disciplinary team meetings and child fatality review panels across the state, acting as a liaison with the State Technical Assistance Team (STAT) to provide training and technical assistance relating to child abuse investigations, and to provide teaching-based trial assistance to Missouri prosecutors in child abuse cases. The fellow would not provide or participate in any direct service with children or families. The Task Force considered this request at the September 8, 2016, meeting and voted to approve one-time funding in the amount of \$28,000.00 to support this pilot program throughout 2017. The grant funded the fellowship until the position became a full-time paid position. The remaining \$5,000 was then granted to MOPS for a guest speaker at the Missouri Association of Prosecuting Attorneys Conference. This is supported by recommendations related to support for experimental, model, and demonstration programs.

Total: \$28,000

Missouri KidsFirst-Advanced Advocacy Training

Missouri KidsFirst submitted a grant request for Advanced Advocacy Training funding. The purpose is to provide training to victim advocates serving children and their families in Missouri to improve their ability to reduce trauma for children and their non-offending caregivers and to improve investigative outcomes. Missouri KidsFirst coordinated and facilitated a three-day victim advocacy training for individuals providing advocacy to children and their families seen by child advocacy centers. The training was held September 19-21, 2017 and located in Jefferson City, Missouri. A total of 30 CAC advocates and directors were trained. 100% of those trained understood the benefits of the First Witness Child Advocacy Philosophy. 100% of trainees applied the information and techniques by participating in role-play during the training. This is supported by recommendation A1 on page 7.

Total: \$21,171

Missouri KidsFirst – ChildFirst Training (October 23-27, 2017) Second Training

Missouri KidsFirst submitted a grant request for funding of one training session of the ChildFirst Curriculum. This was the same training that Missouri KidsFirst submitted funding for in April 2017. This training included a three-day and a five-day training choice. Children's Division (CD) field staff and investigators attended the three-day session designed to teach CD investigators how to conduct initial interviews of children prior to referring them for a forensic interview. Lessons in child development and court preparation were also included. The five-day session, which was the three-day session with two additional days added on, was designed for child protection professionals intending to conduct forensic interviews of children. This course offered the opportunity to conduct mock interviews with actors and receive feedback on actual interview technique. Investigators from various disciplines and workers who attended and completed this training left better equipped to successfully investigate child abuse and neglect, with expectations for more successful dispositions and prosecutions of cases. Disciplines represented included child advocacy center staff, law enforcement officials, Children's Division staff, juvenile court employees, and prosecutors. At the end of the training a course evaluation was distributed. Results were given to the Children's Division. Results have shown great satisfaction with the training. This is supported by recommendation C2 on page 11.

Total: \$31,417

The Missouri Juvenile Justice Association (MJJA) Fall Educational Conference October 25-27, 2017)

In 2017, the Missouri Juvenile Justice Association submitted a grant request for CJA funding to support training for multi-disciplinary team members to attend the spring educational conference. The Task Force voted to approve funding for scholarships for 25 individuals from varying professional disciplines involved in the investigation of child abuse and neglect and juvenile justice. Scholarship recipients were required to attend workshops related to child abuse and neglect. The goal of the conference as it relates to CJA was to provide professionals who work in the field of juvenile justice and child abuse/neglect investigation with increased knowledge to achieve more thorough and successful investigations. The conference was also designed to bring multi-disciplinary team members together to strengthen and foster better multi-disciplinary relations and create the opportunity to improve the coordinated effort to investigate and prosecute child abuse and neglect. The 25 CJA scholarship recipients attended the following sessions:

- Accident or Abuse? The Medical Assessment of Child Physical Abuse
- Child Abuse and Neglect: A Prosecutor's Perspective
- The Complexities of Fatalities and Serious Medical Cases
- Understanding Youth with Problem Sexual Behavior

This is supported by recommendation A1 on page 7.

Total: \$10, 611

Missouri KidsFirst-Expanded Forensic Protocol Training; January 23-25, 2018

In 2017, Missouri KidsFirst submitted a grant request for CJA funding to support training for CAC forensic interviewers. The Task force voted to approve the funding for 15 CAC Forensic Interviewers. Missouri KidsFirst sponsored ChildFirst Expanded FI Protocol Training on January 23-25, 2018, in Jefferson City, Missouri. A total of 15 individuals were trained. Those trained included 15 CAC forensic interviewers. Attendees were trained during the week on information and techniques by participating in role-play interviews. Training was presented by Faculty from ChildFirst Faculty. Per the evaluations of the training, a majority felt the training was very effective and strongly agreed with the knowledge and theory it included. This is supported by recommendation C2.

Total: \$15, 904

Application for Proposed Activities

Compliance with 107 (e) (1) (A) and (B):

In 2018, the Critical Event Review Committee will continue to meet quarterly to conduct critical event reviews and make recommendations on cases of child abuse and neglect, focusing primarily on child fatalities, near fatalities and serious physical injury cases. Case specific recommendations will continue to be compiled, evaluated and prioritized as it relates to more systemic concerns to address issues and barriers to the effective handling and prosecution of child abuse and neglect cases. As Missouri develops their Program Improvement Plan (PIP) in 2018, the Task Force's recommendations will be considered with regard to increased risk and child safety. We would like the Task Force to be involved in the review and development of the PIP by discussing updates as they come at each quarterly meeting. The Children's Division will then take any recommendations that would increase safety of children and

benefit work force development back to CFSR Committee to discuss any implementation that could be incorporated into the PIP.

In 2018, the Finance Committee will continue meeting quarterly, to review grant applications, monitor expenditures, and evaluate the use of CJA funds. The Finance Committee will continue to support the improvement of the investigation and prosecution of child abuse and neglect by recommending the funding of grants designed to improve the investigative response and the prosecution of child abuse and neglect. The Task Force will focus on funding projects aligned with the Task Force's recommendations for systemic improvement. The Task Force will be particularly interested in funding projects that will enhance training for multi-disciplinary team members investigating child abuse and neglect and any innovative pilot projects designed to focus on improving that process and/or reducing trauma to child victims during the investigative process.

Compliance with 107 (e) (1) (C):

In order to remain in compliance with the reform of State laws, ordinances, regulations, protocols and procedures to provide protection for children from abuse (107 (e) (1) (C)), the Legislative Committee will continue to follow legislation pertinent to the work of the Task Force. The Task Force will review prioritized recommendations made as a result of the critical event review committee and the three-year assessment. They will determine whether or not pursuit of legislative proposals to improve the investigation and prosecution of child abuse and neglect may be appropriate in the coming year.

In 2018, the Recruitment Committee will continue to ensure the Task Force is at full membership and remains in compliance with Section 107(c)(1) of CAPTA. The Recruitment committee will also continue to work on ways to promote the work of the Task Force in a way that would attract the interests of qualified persons to fill future vacancies.

The Task Force will monitor the outcomes of the Children's Division's Child Abuse and Neglect Annual Report and the Missouri State Child Fatality Review Program Annual Report. The Task Force will discuss and make recommendations for improvement based on information gathered in collaboration with these reports and findings. When the Missouri State Child Fatality Review Panel has finished their review of fatalities in 2014 and compiled a report, the report will be shared with the Task Force to discuss any findings and further recommendations.

Proposed activities for the Task Force and projects approved for 2018 CJA funding include but are not limited to the following projects:

Task Force on Children's Justice Operating Expenses and Projects

Funding is needed to support and maintain the activities, correspondence, teleconferences, quarterly meetings of the Task Force, meetings of Task Force subcommittees, and attendance for a minimum of two persons to attend a CJA annual conference, in addition to funding grant project requests that may arise as appropriate.

Total: \$ 10,000

The Child Center-What No One is Talking About and Everyone Needs to Know: Understanding Problematic Sexual Behavior (PSB): April 4, 2018

The Child Center Inc. requested funds for a conference titled, "This is What No One is Talking About and Everyone Needs to Know". The conference is focused on youth with problematic sexual behaviors. This one-day workshop included a morning session focused on defining and understanding problem sexual

behaviors (PSB). Participants learned how to distinguish between PSB and typical behavior that is developmentally appropriate. The afternoon session consisted of focusing on medical and therapeutic response and treatment modalities that are best practices in addressing PSB in children. Grant funding was requested for speaker fees, publication materials, and 75 tuition scholarships. The Finance Committee approved funding for \$8,100 which covered scholarships. This is supported by the recommendations in A1.

Total: \$8,100

Missouri KidsFirst-Springfield ChildFirst Training April 23-27, 2018

Missouri KidsFirst requested funding for scholarships for trainees to attend ChildFirst training. This training was a five-day training course and /or a three day Child Abuse Investigation training. Priority is given to prosecutors, law enforcement, forensic interviewers, Children's Division staff and CAC staff in allocating scholarships. The goal of the grant is to improve the investigative response to child sexual abuse by increasing the expertise of professionals addressing the investigation, treatment and prosecution of cases of child sexual abuse. This is supported by the recommendations in C2.

Total: \$43,900

The Missouri Juvenile Justice Association (MJJA) Spring Educational Conference May 23-25, 2018

The Missouri Juvenile Justice Association is requesting funds for lodging and registration fees for 25 scholarship recipients. Three plenary sessions as well as nineteen break-out workshops for professionals during the Spring 2018 Educational Conference will be provided. Several plenary and workshop sessions are applicable to the requirement of the Missouri Task Force on Children Justice in that these seminars will assist various disciplines who work in the child welfare system to improve the handling of child abuse and neglect cases as well as making sure multi-disciplinary team members receive ongoing training and education in order to improve the investigation and prosecution of abuse and neglect cases. The break-out sessions will allow workers to connect, collaborate and obtain new strategies, theories and trends.

- Professionals who work in the field of juvenile justice will improve their investigation skills and prosecution of abuse and neglect cases by attending seminars which address best practices, factors, and barriers they will encounter when handling abuse and neglect cases.
- Due to the increased knowledge juvenile justice professionals will obtain from attending these seminars, cases involving abuse and neglect will be investigated more thoroughly and successfully.
- Professionals will learn to strategize and put theories into place to overcome team issues and to successfully bring MDT's into each case.
- Professionals will strengthen their interview skills.
- Professionals will have a better understanding of youth culture and how adolescents respond to trauma.

A survey will be given to participants to assess the value of the conference. This is supported by the recommendations in A1.

Total: \$14,000

Missouri KidsFirst Victim Advocacy Training

Missouri KidsFirst is requesting funds for Victim Advocacy Training for 30 advanced Victim Advocacy Training Scholarships and 25 lodging scholarships. The purpose of this proposal is to provide training to victim advocates serving children and their families in Missouri to improve their ability to reduce trauma for children and their non-offending caregivers and to improve investigation outcomes. Research demonstrates that coordinated victim advocacy services encourage access to, and participation in, investigation, prosecution, treatment and support services and thus are a core component of the MDT's response. Up-to-date information, ongoing support and access to comprehensive services are critical to a child and family's comfort and ability to participate in an ongoing investigation, possible prosecution, intervention and treatment. The victim support and advocacy responsibilities are implemented consistent with victims' rights legislation. Many members of the MDT may serve as an advocate for a child within their discipline system or agency. However, victim- centered advocacy is a discipline unto itself with a distinct role on the MDT that coordinates and provides services to ensure a consistent and comprehensive network of support for the child and family. Surveys are utilized to assess efficacy of the training. This is supported by the recommendations in C2.

Total: \$23,598

The Task Force on Children's Justice sponsored "Show Me a Helping Hand"

The CJA Task Force is sponsoring a comprehensive workshop for multi-disciplinary team members to focus on sex trafficking, prostitution and male sexual abuse. The target audiences include counselors, therapists, law enforcement, Children's Division, schools, etc. The Conference will be called "Show Me a Helping Hand" and will be held at Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Missouri on June 21 and 22, 2018. The conference is free to all attendees. CJA is sponsoring the cost of two speakers and lodging for 20 attendees that registered before April 15, 2018, and 100 attendees from the Children's Division. The hope is to bring more awareness to male sexual abuse and how best to treat these survivors and prosecute their abusers. This is supported by the recommendations in A1. Surveys will be distributed to participants to evaluate the topics in the conference.

Total: \$15,000